

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 071439Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2187

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 4700

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPT ALLEGEDLY CHALLENGING BUFFER ZONE CONCEPT

1. SSM DIRECTOGUCONTOS, ACCOMPANIED BY SFM CHIEF THORNE, "E" SYSTEMS CHAIRMAN DIXON AND DATT PAID JULY 7 CALFNON COLONEL LEVINSON (IDF LIAISON OFFICER289. *.). ONLY ONE POINT OF PARTICULAR INTEREST EMERGED.

2. LEVINSON CITED SHORT VISIT TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL (CONCLUDED TODAY) BY DR. JONAH OF THE UN, DURING WHICH JONAH BRIEFED ISRAELIS ON AT LEAST PART OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH BSBHTIANS. ACCORDING TO LEVINSON, JONAH SAID THAT FONMIN FAHMY AND GENERAL MAGDOUB (AMONG OTHERS) ARE CHALLENGING THE CONCEPT OF A UN BUFFER ZONE. EGYPTIAN ARGUMENT IS THAT AREA CN QUESTION IS SOVEREIGN EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. THEY APPARENTLY CONCEDE THAT SINAI II REQUIRES THIS AREA BE DEMILITARIZED, BUT ARGUE THAT NONMILITARY EGYPTIAN PRESENCE SHOULD NOT BE REGULATED.

3. ACCORDING TO LEVINSON, EGYPT HAS BEEN FLOATING THIS IDEA FOR LAST FEW WEEKS. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT MAY BE JUST A TACTICAL MOVE DESIGNED TO TRY TO STEAL A MARCH XARING GENERAL SIILASVUO'S ABSENCE. IN ANY CASE, LEVINSON SAID THAT EYGPT HAD NOW POSTPONED ANY JOINT COMMISSION NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL AFTER SIILASVUO'S RETURN (APPARENTLY AUGUST 1).

4. COMMENT: DESPITE HIS HOPEFUL SUGGESTION THAT IT MAY BE
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JUST A STRAWMAN, LEVINSON SEEMED TO TAKE THIS ISSUE VERY

SERIOUSLY. HE WAS AT GREAT PAINS TO CHALLENGE VALIDITY OF
EGYPTIAN ARGUMENT, CITING VARIOUS PASSAGES FROM SINAI II
AGREEMENT.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUFFER AREAS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV04700
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760261-0947
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760782/aaaactze.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPT ALLEGEDLY CHALLENGING BUFFER ZONE CONCEPT
TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006